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	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	11	15
BRUSSELS	11	15
BUCHAREST	15	27
CHICAGO	13	18
COPENHAGEN	10	14
FRANKFURT	9	14
GENEVA	8	17
HELSINKI	6	13
HONG KONG	26	29
JERUSALEM	14	21
LONDON	9	15
MADRID	4	20
MONTREAL	9	15
NEW YORK	16	18
OSLO	7	15
PARIS	14	17
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	25
SAO PAULO	18	24
STOCKHOLM	9	17
TOKYO	14	17
TORONTO	13	18
VIENNA	8	15
ZURICH	8	15

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Today and Shabbat: hot and dry

	Humidity	Min-Max	Today's	Shabbat's
Jerusalem	6	16-30	29	32
Galilee	4	22-32	32	35
Nahariya	4	22-32	32	35
Safed	7	21-29	29	32
Haifa Port	7	22-35	34	37
Tiberias	8	18-34	34	37
Nazareth	21	23-36	35	38
Afula	8	13-36	35	38
Shomron	11	18-34	33	36
Tel Aviv	51	17-31	31	34
B-G Airport	24	14-35	35	38
Jericho	19	18-39	39	42
Gaza	73	20-29	29	32
Bu'neha	4	18-36	36	39
Eilat	7	24-39	39	42

Assad off next week to Soviet Union

DAMASCUS (AP). - President Hafez Assad will make an official visit to the Soviet Union on Monday, the Syrian government news agency announced Wednesday.

The Syrian Arab News Agency said Assad, whose government is the closest Soviet ally in the Middle East, will be making a "working visit" at the invitation of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers.

Leopard calls at Dead Sea hotel

BEERSHEBA (Itim). - A leopard that entered the grounds of the Gali Zohar Hotel near the Dead Sea on Tuesday evening was frightened away by a Nature Reserves inspector after causing a commotion at the hotel.

The leopard was chasing a cat which he caught on the hotel grounds and began devouring. It would have been shot by the hotel's security officer but for the arrival of the Nature Reserves inspector, who insisted that it need not be killed.

Pro-Israel Christians rally in Jerusalem

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Some 3,000 supporters of Israel from 40 nations held a rally at Binyanei HaUma last night opening an annual week-long Feast of Tabernacles celebration.

Speakers at the rally, which included singing and dancing performances, all expressed their support for Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

During the week visitors will participate in the Jerusalem March, a tree-planting ceremony, and other activities. The event has been organized by the International Christian Embassy.

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HOME AND WORLD NEWS

Shamir on return from U.S.

No Lebanon pullback without Syrian guarantees

Israel will not withdraw from South Lebanon if it does not receive Syrian guarantees that terrorist activity in the region will cease, Vice-Premier Shamir said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport upon returning from the U.S., Shamir also said about the recent statements of Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "If Egypt and Jordan are interested in peace, they will get peace. So far we have heard nothing to be encouraged by their declarations."

On his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Shamir said he received no promises from Gromyko in regard to the condition of Soviet Jews, but he believed the Soviets may understand Israel's stands on the Middle East and on Soviet Jewry better as a result of the meeting.

He said he sensed no change in Soviet policy since his last meeting with Gromyko three years ago.

Shamir also said Israel has not promised the U.S. to make any far-reaching changes in Judea and Samaria.

During the first part of his 17-day stay in the U.S., the Foreign Minister met with 35 foreign ministers attending the opening session of the UN General Assembly, and met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid for the first time in two years.

He said he found representatives of the Third World interested in renewing ties with Israel, and that Israel's status in the world has risen. The establishment of the national unity government has aroused great interest in Israel throughout the world, he said.

Peres asks U.S. Jews for economic help

By WALTER RUBY

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. - Prime Minister Peres yesterday called on the American Jewish Community to play the role of a "third party" along with Israel and the U.S. government in strengthening Israel's economy.

Addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations here, the prime minister hailed the American Jewish community as "a group which played an important role in bringing Israel and the U.S. together."

During his speech to the group, and in response to questions, Peres

presented an upbeat assessment of his talks this week in Washington with President Reagan, combined with a blunt and sobering appraisal of Israel's economic crisis. He stressed repeatedly that: "We are not asking the U.S. government to maintain our standard of living, or to subsidize the way we live. We shall again tighten our belts, reduce expenses, and restrain our budget."

While giving no details as to any specific offers the Reagan administration might have made to help the Israeli economy, Peres explained that Israel and the U.S. will set up three working groups to come up with plans and recommendations.

Peres also said that he had stressed in Washington that Israel intends to withdraw from Lebanon as soon as it can ensure its own security, whether or not Syria also withdraws its troops.

"We are not dependent on what the Syrians do. We do not consider Syria to be a charitable organization, and we are not waiting for favours from them," Peres said.

The prime minister added that it is up to Syria to decide whether it is in its interest to have Israeli troops only 16 miles from Damascus. Israel, he said, will be interested in learning whether "Unifil can fill the vacuum to be left by our withdrawal."

Delay in academic year threatened

Navon: We won't let universities be crippled

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon on Wednesday morning assured Prof. Haim Harari, chairman of the budget and planning committee of the Council for Higher Education, that the government will not permit financial considerations to cripple the universities.

But the Committee of Heads of Institutes of Higher Learning on Tuesday urged that the beginning of the academic year be postponed two weeks to allow Prime Minister Peres to settle outstanding financial differences between the Treasury, Finance Ministry, the universities and the students.

The universities are scheduled to open on October 28, but their

budgets, salary scales and tuition fees for the academic year have not yet been determined.

The committee called for the postponement after an emergency meeting with the grants committee of the Council for Higher Education. Representatives of the latter body reported inability to make headway in talks with Treasury officials. The Treasury has not yet paid its accumulated \$50 million debt to the universities, still outstanding from last year, and is intent on streamlining this year's budget for higher education.

A spokesman for the committee said that over the past two years university budgets have already been reduced in real terms by 20 per cent.

Rather than commence the new year of studies in an atmosphere of economic uncertainty and then be forced by insolvency to close, said the spokesman, the committee preferred to wait for Peres to arbitrate.

Meanwhile, a committee headed by Navon and charged with establishing a new scale of university tuition fees met Wednesday and failed to reach agreement.

Peres initiated the setting up of the committee, which includes representatives of the Education Ministry, the Treasury, the Council for Higher Education and the Students Union, on October 4. Navon predicted at that time that "only a miracle" could bring agreement between the committee's components.

Refuseniks write to Reagan, Mondale

MOSCOW (AP). - Five Leningrad refuseniks have written to President Ronald Reagan and to Democratic challenger Walter Mondale asking them to support their demand to leave the Soviet Union, one of the group said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the group dictated the letter, which he said was sent by Soviet mail to the U.S. Consulate in Leningrad, by telephone to the Associated Press in a call from Leningrad.

Signed by Grigory Vasserman, Arkady Goldman, Yakov Gorodetsky, Boris Elkin and Yevge-

nia Utevskaia, the letter urged Reagan and Mondale not to overlook human-rights issues as defined in the 1975 Helsinki Act for the sake of arms control.

IPO to collect signatures for greetings to refuseniks

During the intermission of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Sunday, October 14, conductor Zubin Mehta and violinist Isaac Stern will lead IPO members in collecting audience signatures on New Year greetings for refuseniks in the Soviet Union.

'15% of Egypt's budget went to military'

CAIRO (AP). - Defence Minister Abdul-Halim Abu-Ghazala disclosed in the Cairo weekly *Al-Mussawwar* that Egypt's military spending in the fiscal year 1984-85 is less than 15 per cent of the national budget of 18 billion Egyptian pounds (\$21.5b.).

Military budgets in the years pre-dating the 1979 peace treaty with Israel exceeded 30 per cent of the national budget.

Abu-Ghazala said that Egypt had sold some of its old Soviet-supplied arms to cover the cost of modern arms purchases. He said the purchases amounted to more than \$24b. in recent years. He gave no further details.

Haifa councilman on leave until appeal

Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. - City councillor Avraham Hameiri has suspended his membership on the council pending the outcome of his appeal against conviction and sentence in a soccer bribery case.

Hameiri was found guilty by the Petah Tikva Magistrates Court last month of conspiracy to bribe a Maccabi Petah Tikva defender to throw a match against relegation-threatened Hapoel Haifa in May 1977. Three others were also sentenced.

Hameiri, who is also a leading Haifa Labour Council official, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and another three months suspended. Sentences were postponed until December 2 to enable the accused to appeal.

ALTERNATIVE - The fifth Fringe Theatre Festival is to open in Acre tomorrow and to run for four days.



Recent Ethiopian immigrants on parade after completing a pre-army Gidna training course. OC Manpower Branch Tal-Aluf Amos Yaron, head of Youth Alia Uri Gordon and Gidna Commander Aluf-Mishne Uri Manos were present at the ceremony.

'Sulha' slated in South Lebanon

Post Defence Correspondent

Druse and Shi'ite villagers in Southern Lebanon this morning are expected to meet for a formal *sulha* (reconciliation ceremony) following the massacre last month of 15 Shi'ites in the village of Sukhmour.

The reconciliation was arranged by South Lebanese Army Commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

The 15 Druse being held by the SLA in Hasbaya for their part in the massacre reportedly will be released as a result of the *sulha*.

OC Northern Command Uri Or told Lahad on Succot eve that *sulha* between the conflicting parties would not suffice, and the murderers must be brought to trial.

IDF destroys terrorists' houses in South Lebanon

METULLA (Itim). - The Israel Defence Forces have destroyed three houses in South Lebanon which were used by terrorists, the first time such an action has been carried out there.

The IDF destroyed two houses in Mashara and one in Najdal Balhis on Tuesday.

An IDF patrol was attacked with small arms fire near the village of Meduha in eastern sector of South Lebanon yesterday. There were no casualties. The soldiers returned fire.

Two die on roads

ACRE (Itim). - A 26-year-old Acre resident was killed and seven youths were hurt in three car accidents on Wednesday night in the western Galilee.

Yitzhak Ben-Abu died when the car he was travelling in struck an electricity pylon on the Haifa-Acre road.

Last night, 86-year-old Shmuel Einstein died in Rishon LeZion after he was hit while crossing Rehov Herzl at a traffic light.

Maccabi dazzle Steava 131-88

By DON GOULD

Post Basketball Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Maccabi Tel Aviv, playing with reckless abandon, devastated Steava of Bucharest 131-88 last night at Yad Elyahu to complete a convincing two-game sweep of their European Cup basketball encounter.

Only 2,000 fans were on hand to watch Maccabi put on one of their best shows in years.

Kevin Magee scored almost at will and finished with 33 points, while Mickey Berkowitz added 32 and produced half a dozen steals as he exhibited some of the best passing in his career.

In Haifa, Hapoel Haifa climbed their way into the second round of the Kora Cup with 112-74 victory over the Pirelli club Ionio. Haifa had also won the first leg game in Greece last week.

10km. memorial race

A 10km. race in memory of Oren Hadary of Kibbutz Gether Haziv in Western Galilee will be held tomorrow. He was killed during the Yom Kippur War at the Suez Canal.

The race gets under way at 3 p.m. with participants requested to be at the kibbutz starting point north of Nahariya by 2 p.m.

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and family, Haifa

UAHC Youth Programs in Israel shares the
grief of Beit Yehel in the untimely passing of

YONI MAXIMON

Czech poet chosen for Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP). — Jaroslav Seifert, 83-year-old national poet of Czechoslovakia despite his anti-communist views, yesterday became the country's first winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Sources in Stockholm said it was believed that Seifert, described as a semi-invalid who has trouble walking, is currently hospitalized in his home country.

The 18-member Swedish Academy of Letters said it honored Seifert, little-known outside his country and Central Europe, "for his poetry which, endowed with richness, sensuality and rich inventiveness, provides a liberating image of the indomitable spirit and versatility of man."

His Swedish publisher said he understands Seifert wants to come to Stockholm in December to receive the prize and that he thinks the Prague authorities will let him.

Born in a workers' district of Prague in 1901, Seifert published his first collection of poems, *City in Years*, in 1920, the year before he joined the Communist Party.

Disillusioned by a 1925 trip to the Soviet Union, he quit the party in 1929, lambasting it as "anti-intellectual."

As chairman of the Czech writers' association in 1968, he sharply criticized the Soviet-led invasion of his country and he was among the first signatories of the intellectual dis-

sent manifesto, Charter 77. Nonetheless, Czech dissidents do not consider him a political person.

His high popularity in his home country apparently has protected Seifert from persecution by the authorities. The Communist government, which has criticized him for "impure social ambition," allowed publication of two of his collections of poems in the 1970s, testifying to his stature as poet.

Each prize carries this year a cash stipend of 1.65m. Swedish kronor, equal to about \$193,000, and will be awarded as usual on December 10, the anniversary of scientist Alfred Nobel's death.

Red Sea 99% free of mines, Cairo says

CAIRO (AP). — The Red Sea is now 99 per cent clean of mines following a multinational search operation, Defence Minister Abdel-Halim Abu-Ghazala said in a local magazine interview.

He told the state-owned weekly *Al-Mussawwar* that the recent discovery of a modern Soviet-made mine in the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea's northwestern branch, had strengthened Egyptian suspicions that Libya was responsible for underwater explosions that damaged 19 ships since July 9.

He ruled out any Soviet involvement in the mine-laying, "because the Soviets definitely have an interest in Red Sea security."

Abu-Ghazala said his estimate of per cent "is just a matter of

reckoning with any possibility, because nothing is absolute in our world except God."

At Egypt's invitation, mine-hunting units from the U.S., Britain, France and Italy joined Egyptian minesweepers in the search for mines in the Suez Gulf and Egyptian territorial waters in the Red Sea.

American, French and Dutch contingents likewise scoured the waters off Saudi Arabia and the Soviets were reported to have helped South Yemen in a similar effort.

American and French units left Egypt last month, the Italians were scheduled to leave on Wednesday and the British in a few days.

Abu-Ghazala stopped short of saying that Egypt had any conclusive proof against Libya, which has de-

nied any involvement. He reiterated his earlier call for "a common Arab strategy" to guarantee Red Sea security.

Noting that a substantial part of the world's oil goes through the Red Sea and that current pipeline construction projects will further increase the volume of oil traffic, Abu-Ghazala said, "I sincerely believe that Red Sea security in the coming years will be linked to the very national survival of all Arab countries and not only those overlooking the sea."

"I hereby warn against the threat of the Red Sea becoming a new danger zone unless we Arabs and Africans act in a way that would make its security a regional and collective responsibility," he added.

Kathy Sullivan: America's first woman spacewalker

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP). — Astronaut Kathy Sullivan yesterday became America's first woman spacewalker, floating outside the shuttle Challenger with a male colleague to test tools and techniques for refueling spent satellites.

Sullivan and astronaut David Leestma moved gingerly into the open cargo bay, bundled in \$2.1 million space suits that protected them from radiation, micrometeorites and the extremes of heat and cold outside the orbiting ship.

The first woman to take a space walk was Svetlana Savitskaya, a Soviet cosmonaut, who performed a three-hour test of a tool for welding

and soldering aboard Salyut 7 on July 25.

Leestma, a 35-year-old navy lieutenant-commander, was the first to leave Challenger's airlock, slipping out and quickly clamping a 15-metre safety tether onto a guideline running the 18-metre length of the bay.

Sullivan, a 33-year-old ocean geologist, followed in 4 minutes and attached herself to the guideline.

"This is really great," she said as she moved outside.

Challenger was 383km. above the earth, streaking at 28,000kph. Sullivan and Leestma were to spend 3½ hours outside.

Bush and Ferraro ready for debate

WASHINGTON (AP). — With the label of underdog in dispute, Vice-President George Bush, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger in the November elections Geraldine Ferraro squared off last night for a 90-minute debate that was being watched closely not only for what they said but how they said it in the first man-versus-woman national political forum.

Both camps deemed their candidates ready for the 9 p.m. EDT (2 a.m. today in Israel) meeting in the Philadelphia Civic Centre.

Unlike last Sunday's match between President Reagan and his challenger Walter Mondale, which was limited to domestic policy, there were to be no limits on last night's topics.

ISRAEL-SYRIA LOSSES

(Continued from Page One)

shows that Israel bears a far heavier military burden in financial terms than any of its Arab neighbours. What Israel spent in 1982 (the latest year for which these figures are available) represented 44.6 per cent of total government spending (compared with 33 per cent three years earlier) and 35.7 per cent of its gross national product. Syria's spending was only 29.1 per cent of government spending (a reduction of some 6 per cent compared with 1979) and was only 13.4 per cent of its GNP.

The Saudi figure, too, was under 30 per cent of total government spending (a reduction of around 3 per cent) and represented under 18 per cent of its GNP.

In 1982, Israel spent \$6.879b. on defence, Syria \$2.474b., Egypt \$2.495b., Iraq \$8.127b. and Saudi Arabia \$2.062b.

In 1983, Middle East countries among them spent \$72b. on the military sector, of which 39 per cent was spent by states comprising the

Gulf Co-operation Council; 18 per cent by Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Syria, and 38 per cent by Iran and Iraq.

The institute comments that "there is no indication that defence expenditures have decreased in 1984. The continuing Arabian Gulf war, the cost of which can only be estimated, and the fear of its escalation have forced surrounding states to continue to buy arms in substantial quantities, despite reduced revenues and large current-account deficits."

The institute is of the view that the balance of forces between Iran and Iraq "is now such that neither appears likely to be able to gain a decisive military advantage in the war, although political and economic factors could still have a major impact on whether to continue the war or to negotiate a ceasefire."

What the institute terms "The Palestinian Conflict" consumed "at least \$13b." last year. "Israel's hyper-inflation makes it impossible

to calculate real defence costs, nor is it possible to estimate the real value of Soviet military aid to Syria."

American military aid to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon last year totalled over \$3.2b.

The spending on arms by Middle East countries has provided what the institute calls "a major impetus" to Latin American armaments industries, despite the fact that there is less money available. The Latin Americans, experts believe, "are tending also to challenge the position of the established arms suppliers in some other Third World regions."

Looking at the arms situation generally, *The Military Balance* notes that the world's armed forces are still being modernized, but more slowly in some cases than in earlier years. "Economic restraints are beginning to bite on defence programmes."

There has been no major expansion this year in super-power nuclear weapons programmes, despite the absence of effective arms control agreements. "The general trend is in the direction of increasing accuracy, greater mobility, dispersal, concealment, and smaller size. It is a trend which will make it very difficult to negotiate verifiable constraints in future years," the institute warns.

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Residents of Beirut's Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps on Wednesday carry the coffin of Francoise Kesteman, one of three terrorists intercepted and killed by the IDF in South Lebanon on September 23. Kesteman's mother is at centre. The French terrorist's photo is seen at left. (UPI telephoto)

Record U.S. tax-evasion case settled

NEW YORK (Reuters). — The Marc Rich companies yesterday agreed to pay the U.S. government about \$200 million in fines and interest to settle the biggest tax-evasion case in American history.

But criminal charges against Swiss oil trader Marc Rich and his partner Pincus Green remain. The U.S. attorney for Manhattan, Rudolph Giuliani, told a federal court in New York.

Federal Judge Shirley Kram accepted the settlement stemming from illegal oil trading by Marc Rich and Company A.G. of Switzerland and its U.S. subsidiary Marc Rich

and Company International Ltd. The settlement includes \$150m. in back taxes, \$21m. in fines already paid for failure to produce the subpoenaed documents, plus interest on back taxes.

Giuliani told the judge that the settlement represented "the largest amount ever recovered in a U.S. income-tax case."

As part of the settlement, each company pleaded guilty to 38 counts of making false statements to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service relating to crude oil transactions.

In addition, the U.S. subsidiary, now known as Clarendon Ltd. also

pleaded guilty to two counts of tax evasion totalling \$48m.

In accepting the pleas, Judge Kram imposed additional maximum fines of \$380,000 on the parent company and \$400,000 dollars on its U.S. subsidiary. The two companies were also requested to pay nearly \$33,000 in court costs.

As part of the settlement, both companies will be permitted to resume their U.S. operations, which were suspended when the charges were brought in September 1983.

But Rich and Green, currently fugitives, still face individual charges of tax evasion.

Eight million hit by drought in Ethiopia

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP). — More than eight million people are suffering from a decade-long drought that is now affecting 14 of 16 administrative regions of Ethiopia, the UN Children's Fund said yesterday.

The UNICEF office in Nairobi released an assessment of the Ethiopian drought after representatives of the organization attended a meeting of Ethiopian officials and international donor agencies on Monday in

Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

The statement quoted Daawit Wolde Giorgis, head of Ethiopia's drought relief effort, as saying there has been a further dramatic decrease in rainfall at 19 of 26 weather stations.

Giorgis reiterated criticism of international agencies for not responding quickly enough to his pro-Soviet government's request for 450,000 metric tons of grain needed through June, 1985.

China again warns U.S. on arms deal

PEKING (AP). — China's leader Deng Xiaoping said yesterday that American arms sales to Taiwan could cause an "eruption" in U.S.-Chinese relations, and declared his forces have the power to blockade the island, Japanese visitors reported.

Deng also admitted for the first time that China had differences with North Korea, its closest ally, they said.

The chairman of the Communist Party Central Advisory Commission met for 90 minutes with a group from Japan's Komeito (Clean Government Party), which briefed Japanese reporters on Deng's remarks.

"There is the possibility of an eruption between China and the U.S. if there is no resolution of the

Taiwan problem," they quoted Deng as saying.

They said Deng added that he told U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger here last year: "Now China does not have the military force to invade and occupy Taiwan, but we have the military power to blockade the Taiwan Straits."

Deng reiterated that China supports North Korea's proposal for peaceful reunification of North and South Korea, the Japanese said, but they also quoted him as saying: "We do not necessarily agree with some policies made by North Korea."

It was the first time any senior Communist leader has admitted that Peking does not always concur with the Pyongyang regime, which has become increasingly isolated internationally.

Threat of an attack on U.S. embassy in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP). — A Cypriot newspaper reported yesterday that a group of terrorists, either Arabs or Iranians, planned to crash an explosive-laden small plane onto the U.S. Embassy here.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman refused comment on the report published in the right-wing, pro-West *Alithia* daily.

A Cyprus government spokesman said the police increased security around the embassy the previous day after receiving information that "a terrorist attack was to take place against the American Embassy."

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Soviets boost SS missiles aimed at West

STRESA, Italy — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger told Nato defence ministers yesterday that the Soviet Union has increased its deployment of SS-20 medium-range nuclear missiles targeted on Western Europe.

But he told reporters following the first day of a Nato nuclear planning meeting that the number of SS-20s officially recognized by Nato would remain at 378 — as estimated last December — pending intelligence analysis.

"I reported to the meeting (that) there are more than 378 SS-20s," Weinberger told reporters. He did not release the exact figure.

Dutch delegation officials and Michael Heseltine, the British defence secretary, said earlier in the day that Weinberger had told the conference there was no evidence of additional SS-20s being deployed by the Soviet Union.

The apparent discrepancy with Weinberger's later remarks was not immediately explained.

Earlier yesterday, the Netherlands said its decision to delay the installation of U.S.-made nuclear missiles on Dutch soil was aimed at creating a "climate" of cooperation in East-West relations.

Job de Ruiter, the Dutch Defence Minister, defended his government's stance in a private meeting with Weinberger and again at the conference.

The Dutch said last June that they are delaying the planned deployment of 48 cruise missiles for at least two years, but added that if the Soviets install even one additional SS-20, full Dutch deployment would go ahead.

The U.S. on Wednesday accused the Soviet Union of 17 violations of arms-control agreements, including the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement, along with a number of "suspicious" activities and "breaches of good faith."

Moscow yesterday said the report was a fabrication and accused Reagan of using it as an election trick. (Reuters, AP)

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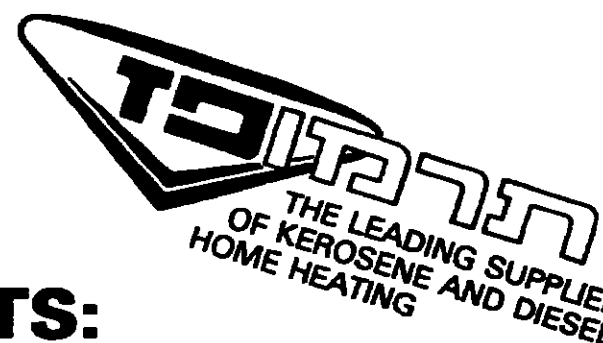
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THE STATE of Israel, which has been setting all kinds of negative records in the economic sphere, might have just put itself in the Guinness Book of Records by having three prime ministers in less than seven days this week.

The first, of course, was Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who left for America in the wee hours of Sunday morning. The second was Deputy Premier Yitzhak Navon, who filled in as acting premier while both Peres and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir were in the U.S. And the third is Vice Premier Shamir, who returned just before the Succot holiday and took up his rightful place as the PM's first alternate until Peres himself returns early next week.

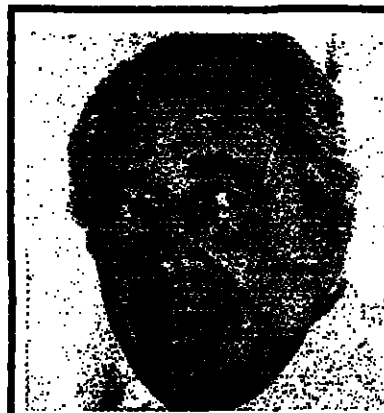
During his brief "term of office," Navon took his job seriously, shutting over from his offices at the Ministry of Education to check incoming and outgoing messages at the Prime Minister's Office in the Jerusalem Kirya.

INCIDENTALLY, our fifth president and current education minister has come in for some criticism as the possessor of the largest ministerial automobile. After considerable inquiry, we have discovered that Navon's car is an Oldsmobile. In the meantime, three non-Socialist members of the cabinet have given up their Volvos in favour of smaller cars. They are Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Shinui, Minister-without-Portfolio Yigael Harvitz of Ometz, and Minister for Special Duties Ezer Weizman of Yehad. Actually, Ezer is not in need of a car. After all, he is the owner of both the agency which imports Daihatsu automobiles from Japan, and the Avis car-rental firm.

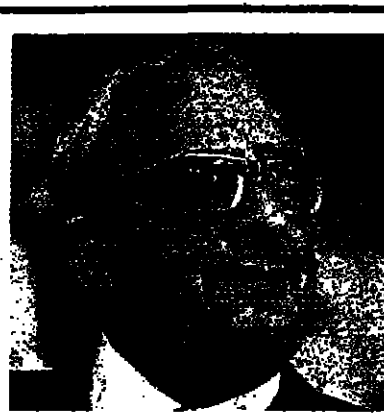
IN SHAMIR'S absence, the amount of Liberal talk on a possible break-up of the Likud alliance with Herut has increased in volume. The most senior Liberal Party figure so far to have gone public in favour of divorce is Arye Dulin, chairman of the Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organization. Dulin's move follows statements by such lesser—but still impor-

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PUBLIC FACES / Mark Segal



Shimon Peres



Yitzhak Navon



Yitzhak Shamir



Ariel Sharon



Avraham Shapira

tant—Liberal figures as Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo (Chich) Lahat, former Knesset speaker Menachem Savidor and Yitzhak Berman, former deputy finance minister Yehzek Flamin, and ex-MK (but still maverick) Dror Zeigerman. Another party figure who has expressed doubts about the Likud's capacity to survive is MK Ariel Weinstein, who is considered close to Justice Minister Moshe Nissim.

THE PROTRACTED absence abroad of Minister of Tourism Avraham (Abrasha) Shapira has prompted some unkind remarks from key figures in the hotel and tourism industries. They are saying that Shapira, an experienced fence-sitter, is staying away in order to avoid taking sides in the brewing Herut-Liberal crisis.

ONE EXPLANATION for the serious and sober tone adopted by Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon is that Arik is busy building a new image. That, it is contended, is in keeping with his drive to promote himself as "Herut leader/alternate," while his rival on that front, Deputy Premier David Levy, is occupied in

his role as the cabinet's bad boy. Sharon, we have been told, gets much of his economic advice from Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapira, the Carmel Carpets magnate and chairman of the Likud-led coalition in the 10th Knesset. In any event, Sharon has been a regular guest for *glatt-kosher* Friday luncheon at Shapira's home.

YOUNG HERUTNIKS were pointedly not invited to the first meeting of the young members of the Liberal and Labour parties, which took place recently. On the Liberal side, the delegation included Eli Hillel of Dimona; Yosef Goldberg, chairman of the Metulla council; Gad Assulin, chairman of the Dead Sea Development Co.; Doron Grupper, assistant director-general of the Agriculture Bank (and son of former minister Pessah Grupper); and Shlomo Tal. The Labour group included Eli de Castro, the mayor of Acre; Micha Goldman, chairman of the Kfar Tavor council; Azor council chairman Yitzhak Eliashiv; Haim Zesler, a member of the Histadrut Central Committee; Ran Kochan of

the United Kibbutz Movement; and Ze'ev Ofek, director of the Lavon Institute. The group called on their two parties to re-establish their historic relationship of amity and cooperation.

STRANGE SUPPORT. Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katzav has been complaining about his exclusion from the ministerial economic committee, and asking out loud why Shamir named Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens to that key panel in his stead. Katzav's complaint has not had much support from his Likud colleagues, while cabinet colleagues Mordechai (Motta) Gur of Labour, and Yigael Harvitz (Ometz), have come out strongly on Katzav's behalf.

DEPARTMENT OF ANOMALY. The Association of Probation Officers has protested, in a letter to Prisons Commissioner Mordechai Wertheimer, over the way Jewish underground suspects are being granted access to their young co-conspirators at the Tel Mond prison. The accused terrorists, it appears, are

being used as "education officers," and one of them, Nathan Natanson, even teaches citizenship at the prison. Wonder how Natanson handles the section on the rule of law.

AN ESTIMATED 20 million viewers saw the first two episodes of Abba Eban's new TV series, Civilization and the Jews. Eban, just back from the U.S., reports that the Public Broadcasting System took the unprecedented step of showing the first two episodes twice during one week, a total of four hours of precious network time. In recognition of his educational efforts, Eban has been named Man of the Year by the U.S. Synagogue Council, a representative body of the three major branches of U.S. Jewry.

While in Manhattan, Eban met Dr. Henry Kissinger, who was busy making appearances in President Ronald Reagan's re-election campaign. What did Dr. K. expect to get out of it? "Probably less than you did," he told Eban.

Eban will be back in the U.S. next week, to address a Weizmann Institute dinner at the Waldorf-

Astoria. The affair, chaired by World Zionist Organization head Edgar Bronfman, will also feature a reading of some of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's writings by actress Aviva Marks, who will fly over especially for the event.

MORE DINNERS. Dr. Henry Kissinger and Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut were recently presented with honorary Ph.D. degrees at a Haifa university dinner in New York. The event was chaired by Sigmond Storchlitz, president of Haifa University's American Friends. Kissinger, we have been told, was persuaded to accept the degree by Haifa U. president Ephraim (Eppy) Evron.

AND MORE HONOURS. Yosef Buchman, leader of the Frankfurt Jewish community and donor of a \$1 million Tel Aviv University scholarship fund, was honoured by TAU president Prof. Moshe Many at a recent festive ceremony in the German city. At the same time, Many and Prof. Hartwig Kelm, president of the Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt, signed a cooperation

agreement between their two institutions.

A PLANELOAD of Hatikva Quarter teenagers enjoyed a novel Rosh Hashana present from El Al and the Interline Club—a bird's-eye view of the country. El Al spokesman Nahman Kleinman told me that the club, which has 300 members, got together to pay for the day's outing, which took the 12- and 13-year-olds over Tel Aviv, to Haifa and Galilee, south to Masada and then to Jerusalem, where they had a bus tour of the capital.

HAIFA TECHNION President Prof. Josef Singer has been re-elected president of the International Congress of Aeronautical Scientists (ICAS), extending his first term which began in 1982.

ONE OF ISRAEL'S top architects, Arye Elhanani was honoured at a recent U.S. Embassy ceremony, when Ambassador Samuel Lewis conferred upon him the fellowship of the prestigious American Institute of Architecture. Elhanani was unable to travel to the U.S. for the ceremony there, when another 10 of the world's leading architects were similarly honoured.

YOUTH WORK. Ann Bialkin, wife of Presidents' Conference Chairman Kenneth Bialkin, is also head of the U.S. Friends of the local "Youth in Distress" programme, which has raised a quarter of a million dollars for its important work. The programme's director, Mike Naftali, told me they were looking forward to Mrs. Bialkin's visit October 17-20, when they would show her how she and her friends in the U.S. have helped Israel's problem children help themselves.

SETTING the record straight dept. When reporting on Premier Shimon Peres's formation of a "pantry" Saturday night forum of Labour ministers similar to the late Golda Meir's kitchen, we failed to mention that Ezer Weizman, the minister for special projects, is a member of that forum.

Getting on Reagan's good side

By WOLF BLITZER / Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration was clearly impressed by the combined performance of Prime Minister Peres and Vice Premier Shamir in Washington.

Senior U.S. officials of course were fully aware of the differences separating the two leaders. They were expecting some combined weakness and paralysis of action as a result. But they liked the way the two men delicately handled their respective roles during the summit with President Reagan, the several separate sessions with Secretary of State George Shultz and the various other meetings.

All in all, U.S. officials agreed, Israel's cause was certainly strengthened during their visit.

Israeli officials for their part seemed almost overjoyed. "I am leaving Washington reassured about the nature of U.S. support and understanding for Israel," Peres told reporters.

White House officials said shortly after his two-hour meeting with Peres that Reagan was gratified by the very warm statement of support he heard from the Prime Minister in the White House, Rose Garden. With dozens of reporters, photographers and television crews on hand, Peres gave the impression of perhaps even endorsing Reagan in his bid for re-election against Democratic challenger Walter Mondale.

"I found in the White House a true friend of Israel who understands our problems and dilemmas," Peres declared, looking directly at Reagan. Washington commentators, including NBC-TV's diplomatic correspondent Martin Kalb, could not help but interpret Peres's statement as a sort of endorsement even though Peres the next day met with Mondale in New York and went out of his way to describe the Democratic candidate as a strong friend of Israel as well.

Still, the Americans suspected that Peres—like so many others—had already concluded that Reagan was going to win and Israel should get on his good side now.

Responding to many questions about any possible improper interference in domestic American politics, Peres repeatedly noted that his visit was based on "Israeli and not American timing." He had critical matters to discuss with Reagan which could not wait.

His warm statement regarding Reagan was exactly what the Republican leader wanted to hear, especially in the aftermath of his rather poor performance against Mondale in the first of two nationally televised debates.

Reagan is still very much the overwhelming favourite to win the November 6 contest. But Mondale made a dent and Reagan was anxious to reverse the momentum.

THE NEW prime minister arrived in Washington with Reagan already in

a positive mood toward Israel, ready to strengthen the new national unity government as well as Peres personally. That helps explain why Reagan was at pains to praise the national unity government during his closing remarks at the Rose Garden ceremony.

Administration officials later insisted that the president meant every word of it. He was truly impressed by the willingness of both the Labour and Likud leader to bury their differences for the time being "in the national interest."

What Reagan, Shultz and other administration leaders also appreciated was the fact that Peres—unlike former prime minister Menachem Begin—did not lecture Washington. The new prime minister, backed by Shamir, offered a cogent, reasoned and rather unemotional assessment of the military and economic predicament facing Israel.

He conceded that Israel had made some mistakes. It is now a difficult condition and needs U.S. assistance. But there are broader reasons for seeking U.S. support—Israel, after all, represents a strategic asset for the U.S. in an important part of the world.

Appearing Wednesday on ABC-TV's *Good Morning America*, the prime minister specifically cited the U.S.-Soviet rivalry in the Middle East to underscore the need for a militarily strong Israel.

Thus, despite earlier Labour criticism of the Likud-led coalition for agreeing to the U.S. condition that enhanced strategic cooperation be aimed against the perceived Soviet threat in the region, Peres himself appeared to go along with that line of thinking by the time he left Washington. This was also the impression he left with the Reagan administration.

What Washington especially appreciated, a U.S. official said, was that there were no "sanctimonious" speeches about the Holocaust and Western/Christian guilt.

IN RETURN, the prime minister basically received what he sought. In effect, Reagan has assured Israel of an economic "safety net"—meaning that if Israel's economy gets into further trouble, the international banking and financial institutions will be assured that the U.S. will

come to the rescue. The banks will not have to worry about their loans in Israel. Washington in effect is guaranteeing them.

That was the gist of Reagan's statement regarding Israel's balance of payments "difficulties." "Should such problems arise," Reagan effectively told Wall Street and other financial centres, "the U.S. government will work closely with the Israeli government to avert them."

There may not have been any announcements of specific sums of additional economic and military aid to Israel, but Peres was assured that such assistance will be forthcoming next year. In the meantime, the administration has decided to go along with the Congressional desire that the entire \$1.2 billion in approved economic assistance be provided right away rather than spread out over the next year. That should alleviate any immediate foreign exchange problems facing Israel.

Peres conceded at a Washington news conference on Wednesday that he had raised some specific figures of needed U.S. aid during his talks. He refused to cite them publicly.

The new joint American-Israeli economic committee will begin its sessions in the next few days. Members of Congress and the Knesset as well as private business and labour union leaders from both countries will be asked to participate. Their deliberations could set the stage for a formal Israeli request early next year for almost double the current amount of combined economic and military aid for Israel. But a \$4b. Israeli request is not necessarily automatically translated into a \$4b. aid package.

Traditionally, an administration in power has always cut the Israeli request. Congress, on the other hand, have very often increased the administration-recommended sums during the lengthy legislative process.

ALL OF THIS does not mean that Washington and Jerusalem are in full agreement on everything. The administration still wants to see Israel's proposed \$1b. budget cut fully implemented.

U.S. officials, especially Shultz and Professor Herbert Stein, his chief adviser on the Israeli economy,

also are anxiously looking for some major structural changes in the Israeli economy—on indexation, government subsidies and productivity.

But Peres, with the strong support of Shamir, made an excellent start. On this there was strong U.S. agreement.

The Americans recognized that it must have been rather awkward—and even painful—for Shamir to play second fiddle to Peres after having served as prime minister once himself. But Shamir was a gentleman who acted graciously, refusing to upstage the prime minister. They demonstrated that they have a common interest in seeing this political experiment in Israel succeed.

One of Shamir's aides commented: "I hope that Peres acts the same way toward Shamir when they reverse roles."

The Americans also know there is another former prime minister in the cabinet—namely Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin—as well as a former president, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon. There is also some other respected talent, including former defence ministers Ezer Weizman and Moshe Arens as well as former chiefs of staff Haim Bar-Lev and Mordechai Gur—all of which adds up to some impressive experience in Jerusalem, according to senior U.S. officials.

Peres left Washington a very happy man. U.S. and Israeli officials said he had every reason to be happy, although his return to Israel and the realization of the enormous economic, military and political problems still facing his country should quickly put a damper on any overly optimistic or prolonged glee.

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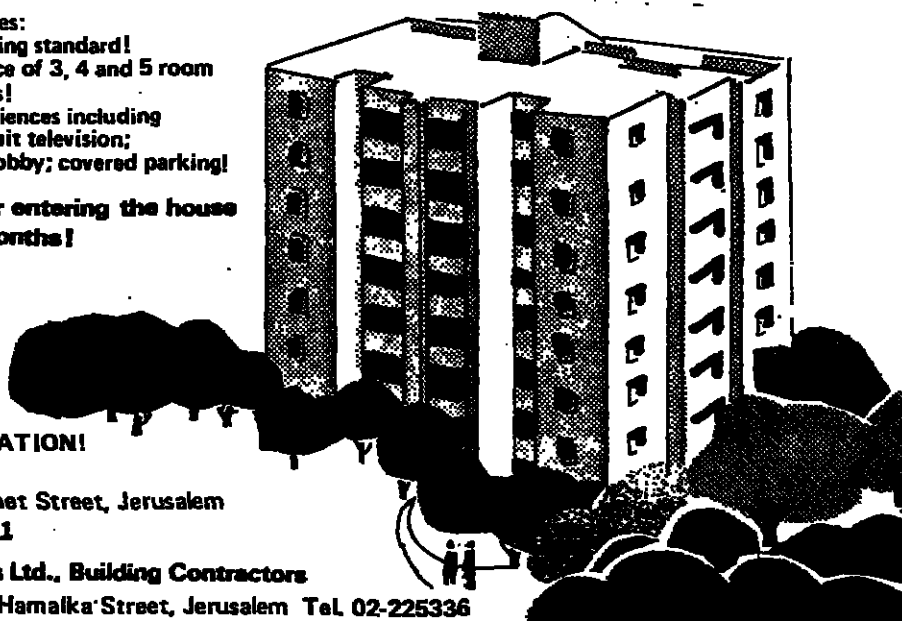
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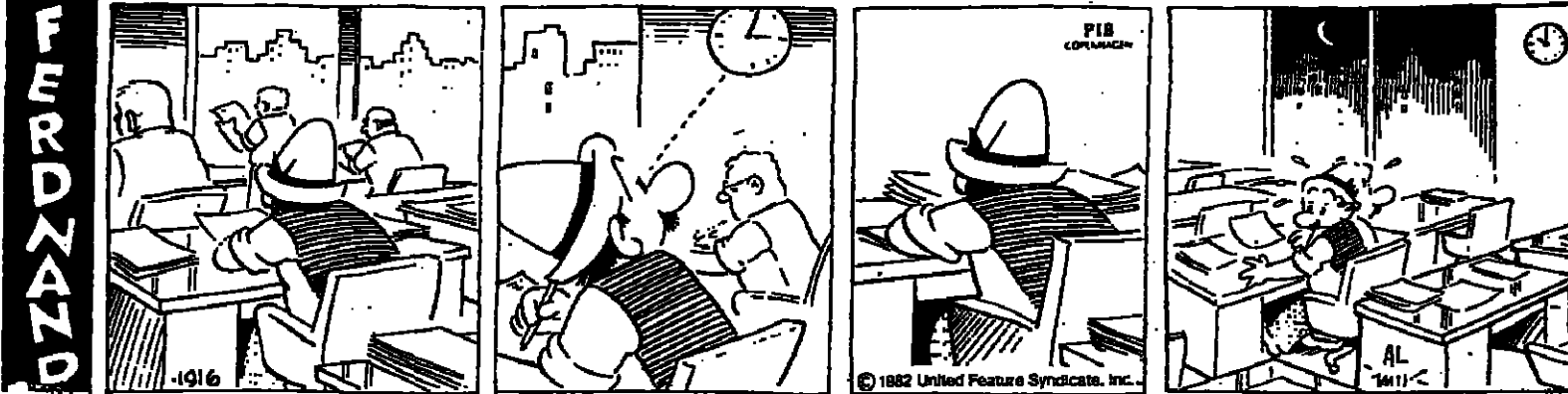
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Dangerous talk of peace

By YOSEF GOELL

PRESIDENT Jaafar Numeiri of Sudan was quoted earlier this week as advising the Arabs to drop their military option in dealing with Israel "because Israel's defeat militarily is impossible."

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Anba*, Numeiri said, "the Arabs are incapable of defeating Israel militarily." Of equal interest, however, was his addition to the effect that "...we can only defeat Israel through a method of peace."

This latter remark was made in connection with Numeiri's contention that the Arabs have in effect already "accepted the principle of peace" with Israel by endorsing the 1982 Fez Plan for a comprehensive peace with Israel.

Numeiri's statement should be of interest to Israelis and third party observers of developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict for three reasons:

He is justly considered to be an important spokesman for the "moderate" camp in the Arab world on the issue of the attitude towards Israel.

As an ally and client of Egypt, Numeiri often says openly what the Egyptians are thinking but prefer not to say.

The timing of the statement was coordinated with the visit of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to King Hussein of Jordan for the purpose of their jointly serving as a nucleus for refloating the idea of an international conference on a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace.

For an Israeli it should be gratifying to hear more and more Arab leaders admit openly - and to Arab audiences at that - that the Arabs no

longer have a viable military option for defeating Israel. This was actually the formula which the late president Anwar Sadat used in trying to sell his "heresy" of the Camp David agreements to his fellow Arabs.

The Sadat view, now repeated by Numeiri, was based partly on the implications of the monumental Egyptian and Syrian military defeats in the Yom Kippur war, which began so auspiciously for them. But even more it was based on the belief of Arab leaders that Israel possesses sufficient atom bombs and the means of delivery to wipe out the Arab world if conventional Arab armies ever succeeded in defeating the Israel Army and confronting this country with the immediate threat of massive invasion and annihilation.

SADAT WAS excommunicated for his pains by the Arab leaders convened in the Baghdad conference. His successor, Mubarak, after six years in the Arab political desert, now hopes that more and more Arab leaders will have the courage to follow King Hussein's lead in restoring relations with Cairo, and according Egypt anew the central role in the Arab world it was accustomed to.

This trend is often called "moderate" in the Western press. It would indeed be entitled to be so called were it not for the second part of Numeiri's statement - "we can only

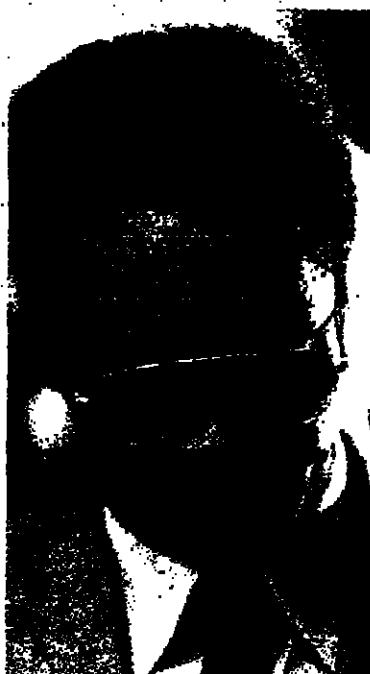
DEFEAT Israel through a method of peace."

This was also part of Sadat's message to the Arab world. To an extent, it is also the attitude of Yasser Arafat in the PLO, a position that has placed his own role as leader of that internally divided terrorist organization in jeopardy.

Which raises the hoary Jewish question: "Is it good or bad for the Jews? Good or bad for Israel?"

THERE IS no doubt that the fact that there has been no war between Egypt and Israel for the past 11 years is good. But one should also remember that there was no war between Egypt and Israel for an equal period between 1956 and 1967. The period of no war between the Egyptian defeat in June 1967 and the beginning of the war of attrition along the Suez Canal in 1968 was much shorter. And only three years separated the end of that war and the outbreak of the Yom Kippur war in October 1973.

One of the reasons there has been no war with Egypt during the past 11 years is the near total Egyptian economic and military dependence on the U.S. as a result of Sadat's realigning of his country away from dependence on Moscow to Amer-



Jaafar Numeiri: "...we can only defeat Israel through a method of peace."

ican orientation.

Another reason is the generally accepted assessment that the Egyptian army has not yet been sufficient-

ly rebuilt from its debacle in the Yom Kippur war, but that task should be completed by about 1988.

Can Israel depend on Egyptian assurances of "no more war," which were made in conjunction with the peace treaty signed in March 1979?

It depends what one means by "depend."

In the short term Mubarak's Egypt seems to be determined to adhere to its commitment of no more war. One of the difficulties confronting Israel, however, is gauging both Arab intentions and capabilities in the long run. Here one runs into guess work: life and death guess work for Israel.

THUS the importance of the "normalization" Israel demanded from Egypt. It is not that trade with Egypt, or mutual tourist and professional exchanges, are intrinsically that important. They are irreplaceable, however, as indicators of intentions.

To judge by Egypt's performance in this area since Mubarak succeeded Sadat three years ago, there is every reason for Israel to be suspicious in regard to Egypt's long-term intentions, especially when those intentions are coupled with the rebuilding of Egypt's military capacity.

Egypt is undoubtedly at the forefront of the "pragmatic" (not the moderate) camp in the Arab world. So is Jordan's Hussein very much part of it, as is Morocco's Hassan, and Sudan's Numeiri.

But should Mubarak succeed in winning a restoration of Iraqi diplomatic recognition, it would NOT be safe to speak of Iraq's also joining the pragmatists on the issue of Israel.

Moreover, it should be absolutely clear that the pragmatic proposal for the "defeat of Israel, through a method of peace," as Numeiri would have it, cuts no ice with the Syrians.

IN EFFECT there has been no war between Israel and Syria for over ten years (with the exception of Arik Sharon's determination to take on the Syrians in the Bekaa two years ago). But that does not mean that Syria has given up her hostile intentions against Israel. President Assad speaks openly of building up Syria's military potential to take on Israel by herself.

Why bring all of this up simply in response to an interview given by a second-level Arab leader like Numeiri? Because we are going to be subjected in the near future to a flood of arguments from well-intentioned (and from some not such well-intentioned) third parties to the effect that the Arab world is on the verge of following Sadat's historic breakthrough to peace.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Arab hostility to Israel is, if anything, stronger today than it ever was. Hostility to Israel is largely a function of the growth in intensity of Arab nationalism in the various Arab countries. And in most Arab countries a modern sense of nationalism is only at its beginning.

Numeiri's statement should serve as a timely reminder that Israel is confronted by an Arab world split between pragmatists and hard-liners in regard to the question of how best Israel should be taken on and defeated. Should the Arabs continue to attack Israel as frequently as possible, regardless of the injury done to the Arabs themselves, in the hope that the nth try will finally succeed?

Or should a more sophisticated approach be adopted of undermining Israel internally, politically, and socially and of estranging it from international supporters, so that eventually the danger to the Arabs from a final military push will be minimized?

No one in the Arab world is talking (and maybe not even thinking of, but that is more difficult to assert categorically) of negotiating a peace with Israel that would result in a situation similar to the ones that exist between France and Italy, or between the U.S. and Canada, or between the U.S. and Mexico.

Since we will be subjected to an inundation of propaganda in the near future, it would be well if, at least in our own minds, we are clear about what is really happening in the Arab world in regard to the non-existent "peace process."

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

DISSENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

By SHMUEL KATZ

THE STALEMATE produced by the July election carried the seeds of one major blessing. It put an end to the virtual stalemate in government. It forced the two major parties to stop tripping each other up and to join forces in tackling the deepening economic crisis.

Success for their union is feasible precisely because the parties are agreed essentially on the measures that have to be taken.

Inevitably, there are and will be differences of opinion on specifics, even within each of the parties themselves - whether for the protection of some special interest or out of differing perceptions of the national good.

Once a decision has been taken, however, it should be implemented with all speed and authority.

It is unfortunate that these trite observations have to be repeated again and again. Even now, some members of the government (happily, it seems, a minority) appear not to have grasped that a drastic curative policy must cause inconvenience and hardship, and that specific measures will cause specific inconvenience and hardship to one or other sector of the public. No sector, moreover, can remain unaffected - except those in the lowest income brackets for whom exemption provision must be made.

It is also inevitable that every hard decision - to cut public budgets or to reduce private spending - will have

its drawbacks. It is proper that the public should be made aware of the drawbacks. But it is reprehensible that after a decision has been taken members of the government who were outvoted in debate should go out to campaign publicly against the decision.

Mr. David Levy and those of his colleagues who in cabinet opposed the economic decrees which were finally adopted by the majority are committing a political as well as moral sin in reopening the issue to the public and the world outside. It is expressly their duty, once a decision has been taken, to defend that decision, to help the public understand the reason why it was taken, even its harsh implications; and to help soften potential dissatisfactions in the public. That is what collective responsibility means - and demands.

If a minister who is not in charge of a specific policy feels strongly enough that it is a wrong policy, he has the option of resigning - and promoting his views in public. If his feelings are not quite so pressing as to make him resign, he should at least leave it to the ministers directly concerned to make public statements.

There is a third way - which is

highly recommended - for dissident but responsible ministers: to tell the public that there were differences of opinion in the cabinet because these are inevitable in a democratic and free society and that now a decision has been reached, that decision is the policy of the state and all will pull together to make a success of it.

IT IS APPARENT that Mr. David Levy is publicly adopting an "opponentist" attitude in order to improve his credentials as a defender of workers' interests in the forthcoming Histadrut election. Histadrut, Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, will no doubt feel the need for similar propaganda. By their competition, Levy and Kessar may thus together create serious obstacles in the way of the hard-won critical united policy.

It is urgent that Mr. Shamir and, more particularly, Mr. Peres and his colleagues in the Labour Party should now exert their maximum influence to have the Histadrut elections postponed. The nation, and the

government, need Histadrut elections now like a hole in the head.

IT IS SURPRISING how some of the critics have missed (or have chosen to ignore) the essential feature of the ban on luxury imports (apart from the saving of dollars).

They have made the remarkable discovery that you cannot collect customs dues on goods you do not import. They raise the loss of customs dues as an argument against the ban on luxury goods.

It would follow, in inescapable logic, that if the greatest good for the state lies in collecting customs dues (which, for luxuries, are naturally heavy) the government, far from banning luxuries, should actively encourage and promote their import.

Just what Finance Minister Yoram Andor did in 1981.

Nihilistic criticism of the ban on car imports has gone even further. Some critics have claimed that the saving will not be \$470 million as claimed by government but a mere \$250 million - and therefore, etcetera etcetera.

Nobody, of course, knows exactly how many dollars will have been saved. Government must save wherever and whatever it can; and, no less important, it must be seen to be doing so.

No less salutary in weaning the public away from luxury or unnecessary spending are the obstacles now placed in the way of travel abroad. To succeed, this measure should reduce the number of Israeli citizens travelling from the incredible 700,000 of 1983 to a "normal" figure, like 200,000.

These measures are still a far cry from real belt-tightening. That a great deal has still to be done before the imperative of economy and restraint penetrates the consciousness

of citizens as well as public figures - who are expected even to set an example - may be gleaned from the newspaper trivia of recent days.

The Israel Football Association has chosen this moment to demand an increase of 250 per cent (subsequently moderated to 100 per cent) in the payment by the broadcasting authority for permission to cover the Shabbat games in the *Songs and Goals* programme.

While a steep increase is being imposed on students' fees, an increase vigorously opposed by the students - and universities threaten not to open for the new term for lack of funds, the new head of the Israeli Cultural Centre in Cairo finds the moment appropriate to add to his budget (as reported in *Ma'ariv*) by giving stipends to Egyptians studying Hebrew.

Seven years after Prime Minister Menachem Begin closed down the superfluous office of the prime minister in Tel Aviv, precisely now Premier Peres decides to reopen it.

The actual expenditure in each of these cases may be small; but every such display of obliviousness of the prime need of the hour militates against a climate of restraint - restraint of generosity as well as of appetite.

WHAT IS NEEDED in Israel today is a calculated programme to give detailed guidance to both public figures and private citizens so as to evolve, by specific acts and restraints, a national harmony of belt-tightening. Here, indeed, is a worthy undertaking for another of the band of unemployed and under-employed ministers "without portfolios."

Such a minister should become whether formally or informally, a director of economic restraint. Let

without any real suffering.

Let the competition go on for four or six weeks. Radio and television, perhaps even newspapers, will serve as channels of communication. At the end, the most feasible and most effective suggestions (however many there may be) will be published as guidelines for the public. Israeli manufacturers and other public-spirited citizens will be happy to donate prizes to the successful authors.

Throughout it all, the minister and all others involved should see it as their object to popularize, to make it fashionable, to save, to economize, to "keep up with the Joneses" only in restraint.

This, indeed, even without a minister, is good advice for all of us in the new year. Let us celebrate the discovery that there can be joy in austerity.

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Chesterman 27	8:50-9:50	Eretz Yisrael in Halacha
		and Jewish Thought
Oct. 24 Wednesday	7:45-8:45	Pirkei Avot
Chesterman 28	8:50-9:50	Practical Jewish Law
For men only		
Wednesday	7:45-8:45	Talmud in English
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Post Political Correspondent Mark Segal talks to Pinhas Goldstein MK

Liberal dose of anger



Maybe Levy is afraid that Moda'i will fight him for the united Likud leadership — and win'

THE LIBERALS' unhappiness with the present state of their alliance with Herut has surfaced strongly following the re-allocation of power and patronage in the national unity government. Some Liberals, like former agriculture minister Pessah Grupper, talk about an instant end to the 19-year-old union. But Pinhas Goldstein MK, acting chairman of the party Knesset caucus, is much more circumspect.

Goldstein, 45, the closest party ally of the Liberal Party leader, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, says with a sigh: "I really miss Menachem Begin. What a gentleman he was in honouring party agreements. I can only pray that he will recover his health and resume his leadership role."

"He would never have behaved like his Herut successors. They constantly present us with faits accomplis. I'll give you some examples: We had a meeting of the Knesset defence and foreign affairs committee with premier Shimon Peres, when we were informed that Herut MK David Magen was the Likud choice for acting committee chairman in the absence of Abba Eban. Then we were told that Herut's Haim Kaufman had been picked as coalition executive chairman. In both cases, Herut decided and announced the appointments without consulting us. The same goes for a whole series of coalition agreements which we were not asked about."

Goldstein mentions, for example, that Agudat Yisrael's two-MK faction has been awarded a deputy minister's seat in the Housing Ministry, while the two-MK Morasha faction received a minister's seat for non-MK Yosef Shapira and a deputy minister's seat in the Commerce and Industry Ministry, for one of its two MKs, Avraham Verger.

All these deals were arranged by Ariel Sharon, with the sanction of the other Herut leaders. But they never had the courtesy, he says, to inform the Liberals what they were doing in their name.

EXPLAINING the background to the rising tension between Herut and the Liberals, Goldstein points to the friction that existed before the November 1983 municipal elections. Herut challenged the existing Gahal agreement and hurt the Liberals in such places as Petah Tikva, Ashdod, Kiryat Malachi, Kfar Sava and Ashdod.

"The national Herut leadership was totally disinterested in these breaches in our long-standing agreement. I was in charge of organizing the Knesset election campaign — and in that capacity I wrote to then-premier Shimon Peres asking that he order Herut ministers not to appear on behalf of independent Herut city lists, but

only for official Likud tickets. Both David Levy and Ariel Sharon, however, ignored Shimon's request," says Goldstein, ducking a question about the fact that the deputy premier's brother, Maxim Levy, was elected to the mayoralty of Lod on an independent Herut slate.

The next stage in the deterioration of the alliance came during the stormy period when the Knesset list was formed: "Moda'i has an official letter of reassurance from Sharon that no one was contemplating any changes in the existing arrangement for the Knesset list. But when it came to the crunch, Levy and Yoram Aridor managed to reduce the Liberal representation by three places."

"So what are we to conclude? That there is no one in charge in Herut. I sorely miss Menachem Begin, he always delivered whenever he promised anything. No one dared contest his commitments in Herut," declares Goldstein.

THE LIBERALS fought for the national unity government in the knowledge that they would lose out as a result. Thankfully, he says, the portfolio of finance minister reverted to the Liberal Party leader, "who hardly had time to settle in when he found himself bombarded by David Levy."

"Far be it from me to take the deputy premier to task, but in my considered opinion the culture of government involves not washing your dirty linen in public. I find it intolerable that our economy should become a plaything in the hands of politicians aiming at cheaply won personal gains."

"Levy and his fellow Herutniks must realize that if, God forbid, Moda'i fails, it will not be at his

personal cost, but at the cost of the country as a whole.

"I sincerely believe that Yitzhak Moda'i is the only one who can pull the wagon of our economy out of the morass."

"And I would like to remind all those concerned that the present situation was not caused by any Liberal — the last three finance ministers were not members of our party."

GOLDSTEIN IS GRATIFIED that for once the entire Liberal Party had closed ranks behind Moda'i — "for whatever motives."

If the Liberals eventually decide to go it alone, they appreciate that Moda'i's success at the Treasury will have electoral benefits," he says.

Pessah Grupper has already called for a break with Herut. Is Goldstein ready to support such a move? He fields the question with extreme caution. Firstly, he says, if Grupper has such far-reaching proposals, he must subject them to the vote of the party executive forums: "Pessy should not forget that just as it takes time to unify parties, it takes time to break them apart."

Contrary to Grupper's idea, there were two other options — leaving the status quo and merging the Liberals with Herut.

He goes on to point to "the series of injuries done to Liberals of late. Take the example of Sharon: While I would be the last to deny him the right to take a new aide, I do challenge his right to sack a loyal civil servant — who has done very well — just because he is a member of the Liberal Party. We saw in Sharon's act the start of a wave of political dismissals of Liberals by Herut ministers."

"Just compare that with the agreement we reached with the Labour

party, whereby they committed themselves not to touch any of our people. Perhaps we should have asked for a written commitment from our Herut allies."

Returning to Levy's attacks on Moda'i, Goldstein bitterly regrets that "all this time not one member of the Herut front-bench uttered a word of remonstrance. None of them tried to stop him. After all, Levy's attacks hurt not only the plans for economic recovery, but the unity of the Likud. If Levy and his ilk succeed in causing the Likud to break up, then the continuation of Labour in power for decades to come will be laid at Levy's door."

AS TO THE PROSPECTS of mending fences in the Likud, Goldstein hopes that the signals made by various Liberal spokesmen through the media have been properly read and registered inside Herut: "We hope they got the message," he remarks.

OF THE GOVERNMENT'S performance so far, Goldstein notes the numerous cases when party lines have been crossed. While the Big Two remain divided on political issues, there have been interesting combinations on economic policy. While Moda'i finds supporters in Sharon, Labour's Moshe Shalom and Herut's Moshe Katzav, Levy has joined forces with Shimon's Amnon Rubinstein and Yehuda's Ezer Weizman. He expresses anger "at having heard from Labour colleagues how Levy scuttled the scheme to freeze part of the C-P-L allowance. He should at least have given Moda'i '90 days' grace."

"In my considered opinion, we'll see the first fruits of an economic recovery in a few months' time, if Moda'i is allowed to get on with the job."

"We Liberals do have an ideology, and previous finance ministers went against it. Even a Liberal like Moda'i has to deviate, albeit painfully, from his own ideology. But this is due to the size of the calamity."

"One thing I do know is that at the Treasury they feel that, finally, they have someone in charge who knows what he's about. A clear indication of this was his decision to bring back Dr. Emmanuel Sharon as director-general."

Goldstein speaks with considerable warmth of Peres and the backing he has offered to his Liberal finance minister: "That was apparent at the key meeting with Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, when the government team consisted of Peres, (Economic Minister) Gad Ya'acobi, Moda'i and Levy. I'm told that Levy reproached Kessar: 'If you don't fight them, then I will.' So what could Peres or even Kessar do?"

GOLDSTEIN REMINDS me of his initiative to postpone the Histadrut elections scheduled for next April: "I sent urgent telegrams to Peres and Levy on this issue."

"I believe that the elections should be put off so that economic policy can be formulated without the ministers involved squinting in the direction of the Histadrut electorate."

"It's high time, anyway, for the Likud to be co-opted onto the top Histadrut and Hevrat Ha'Ovdim executive forums. We have grand coalitions in the government and the WZO, why not in the Histadrut? Anyway, I hope the Histadrut leadership will respond to my call to put off the elections."

Goldstein cannot confirm rumours of Levy's plans to repeat his 1981 "Strongman for the Histadrut" act, but he is ready to say: "He's set

himself up as the protector of the wage-earners, yet he fails to grasp that he's harming their interests."

"Mind you, I wouldn't go so far as to ask why Levy turned down the Finance Ministry on a number of occasions. He's never really explained his motives."

"I wonder whether the deputy premier really has in mind the likelihood of the Likud breaking up, with him pushing Herut into the opposition, enabling him to defeat Sharon in the next leadership round?"

"If his mind really works along such lines, perhaps there is another scenario: the Likud stays united, Moda'i succeeds at the Treasury, the Likud parties merge."

"Maybe Levy is afraid that in such a situation, Moda'i will fight him for the united Likud leadership — and win. After all, not all parts of Herut accept Levy's populism. There are major forces in that party which support the economic line set by former finance minister Yigael Cohen-Orad and now followed by Moda'i. It's also illuminating to see how Sharon supported Moda'i against Levy, and yet they talk of an alliance between them."

Goldstein is fairly optimistic that a break-up of the Likud can be avoided now. Along with fellow Liberals, he is putting his trust in Sharon re-asserting his primacy within Herut and putting the Herut house in order. True, he concedes, Herut in the post-Begin era has still not settled the question of the succession: "They don't have a clear leadership, at least that's how things appear to the outsider."

"I fear that if some political wisdom is not infused into the Herut front bench, the Likud could blow apart. And if we go our separate ways, only Labour will benefit."

Yet, I suggest so many in Herut seem to disdain the Liberals, calling them *trampolines* (free-loaders). "True," says Goldstein. "There are many in Herut who dislike us Liberals. But then it may be said that a political party is not exactly a social club. We Liberals do have a special identity and we have to bring back our middle-class constituency to the Likud."

"This segment of the community was badly hurt during Yoram Aridor's term at the Treasury. It could be argued that if a party does not bring its 'political dowry' to a union then it's dispensable. I trust that once Moda'i helps solve the burning problems of the economy, we will be able to turn our attention to those elements who used to belong to the traditional General Zionist constituency and who have in recent years strayed into other party pastures."

"If we succeed in this aim, then Herut will regard us as a worthwhile partner; if not, then Herut will wish to proceed without us."

HE SINCERELY believes that if the Likud lays more emphasis on Liberal ideology it will increase its support. But he warns: "We should not dismiss as too far-reaching the possibility that we Liberals may eventually be forced to quit the Likud because of Herut pressures. After all, if a politician or a body of politicians senses that someone is out to destroy him or them, then he or they should not wait for the axe to fall."

"We may come to the conclusion that a faction of four or even two MKs can more effectively pursue their political ideology than a group of 18 MKs. But, of course, if the split occurs then both parties will lose."

Meanwhile, Goldstein does not intend losing time: as soon as the recess ends, he and Herut MK Micha Reiser will ask permission of the coalition executive to table a joint bill raising the threshold for admission of Knesset lists from 1 per cent to 3 per cent. This, he feels, is an adequate response to a deeply felt public demand.

But didn't Sharon commit the Likud to prevent such a measure in the secret deal with Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapira? "I'm no rubber stamp. Anyway, no one told us officially about that deal. I, too, learned about it via the press. The commitment was never approved by the parties' executive forums or by the Likud Knesset faction."

And what about the looming Herut leadership contest? Goldstein concedes that it is an internal Herut matter. But he stresses, if Herut really wants to keep the partnership with the Liberals intact, it must take the Liberals' views into account over who will head the Likud list at the next elections — "that is, if it survives until then."

When confronted by the three leadership options open to Herut after Sharon, Goldstein makes no secret of his preference for the top job if it is contested by Levy, Sharon and Arens. He would opt for Arens.

A political game

Eliahu Shahaf

world championship contest is being held between the two best players in the world. As far as their chess prowess is concerned, it can be said that they are evenly matched.

But beside chess there is the factor of politics. An Israeli journalist, who knows Kasparov personally ("a most amiable young man") is convinced

Gary would not be allowed to win the match.

The darling of the Soviet chess authorities is Anatoly Karpov, a pure Russian and a member of the Communist party. Kasparov (born Weinstein) is of Jewish descent. He displays independence, which is not to the taste of the Soviet chess fathers.

One naturally might ask whether these factors would have much influence on what happens over the board, in the battlefield. The answer is yes — quite a lot. The psychological means of terror were employed by the Russians in the 1978 Karpov-Korchnoi match, including the use of a parapsychologist, who much annoyed Korchnoi.

Kasparov may be threatened, for example, with being deprived of his West German car. The pressure put on a player in the USSR is well-illustrated by the fact that Boris Spassky was harshly treated after he had the "misfortune" of beating Karpov in the Linares tournament last year. Spassky finally severed his ties with the Soviet chess world and

now plays under the colours of France (he is married to a French woman and has lived in France in recent years). Those well-acquainted with the Soviet chess world can tell a thousand and one tales about what goes on behind the curtain. It can be said that in chess, as in life, everything is possible.

The true story of the Karpov-Kasparov match may never be told. We can only wait and see what happens on the stage of the Moscow Column Hall, where Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov are confronting each other. Whoever wins the match, one thing is certain: chess lore will be enriched with new treasures to be enjoyed by millions of chess fans throughout the world.

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French franc	45.851	Austrian schilling (10)	200.15
Dutch guilder	124.68	Italian lire (1000)	227.68
Swiss franc	170.94	Japanese yen (100)	
Swedish krona	49.940	Irish pound	436.05
Norwegian krone	48.905	Spanish peseta (100)	251.66
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Winning Washington

THE information that has been made public officially and non-officially, about Mr. Peres's talks in Washington would indicate that the Prime Minister has good reason to be pleased.

Not only was he well received, but President Reagan and his aides apparently gave a very sympathetic hearing to Mr. Peres's exposition of Israel's present economic plight. Thus the President immediately issued a statement designed to reassure Israel's present and future creditors, and there was agreement to give Israel this year's grant aid at the outset in a single sum.

In addition there was apparently warrant for Mr. Peres to conclude that Israel's new aid requests would be favourably examined, and, no less important, that the Administration was willing to help Israel launch a long-range effort to boost U.S. investment in the country.

Precisely how all these matters will be translated into reality will become clear only in the weeks and months ahead. On the eve of an American presidential election, it could not be expected that any possible points of contention or disagreement would be given to display.

Yet it should not be supposed that even the most generous of U.S. responses will absolve the government from devising and implementing a coherent economic policy based on radically different notions of public expenditure than existed until now. As in our military outlook, so too on the economic front, it must be realized that the U.S. will only help us, over the long run, if we help ourselves.

Without explicit signs of such self help, no U.S. Administration, no matter how friendly, could long sustain largesse.

Upon his return, Mr. Peres will probably report to the public on the favourable responses he encountered in Washington. But he will also have to underline to the public, and to his fidgety ministers, who would, of course, prefer to avoid contractions of their budgets, that reform still begins at home.

Mending fences

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak's visit to Amman this week has been carefully monitored in Jerusalem for any indication that the formal rapprochement between Jordan and Egypt represented a weakening of Egypt's commitments under its peace treaty with Israel.

Remarks attributed to Mubarak's chief political aide, Dr. Osama al-Baz, on the eve of the visit, that Egypt's Arab commitments took precedence over those to Israel, which he described as a "danger to world peace," were far from encouraging, and they drew an appropriately sharp response from the Foreign Ministry.

In the event, al-Baz's outburst on Jordanian TV has emerged as quite out of key with the statements attributed to Mubarak both during the visit and on his return to Cairo yesterday.

Egypt remains committed to Camp David, Mubarak stressed, and this commitment has nothing to do with its relations with Jordan or any other Arab country.

While conceding Jordan's right to oppose Camp David - something stressed repeatedly by Hussein since diplomatic ties with Egypt were restored two weeks ago - both Mubarak and Hussein have nevertheless indicated that they had agreed on some form of "common strategy" to deal with the Palestine problem.

Just what this strategy might be was not spelled out by either man. And nor is it likely to be before the U.S. presidential election next month, after which America's intentions with regard to the peace process and its own initiatives will become clearer.

Hussein has already expressed his scepticism that anything much can be achieved either with the new government in Israel, or with the administration in Washington. His preference, so he has been saying repeatedly, would be for some form of international conference embracing all the parties involved as well as both superpowers.

Mubarak, on the other hand, has by no means ruled out a revival of the American peace initiative after next month's election, and was extremely careful this week not to close the door on such a possibility - despite the pressure he might well have come under to do so from Hussein, to judge by the king's public statements.

For Jerusalem, the longer term implications of this week's summit in Amman are thus not yet apparent. In the immediate short term, the messages would appear to be that the latest developments in Egyptian-Jordanian relations will have little or no effect on Israel's relations either with Jordan or with Egypt.

U.S. GRANTS

(Continued from Page One)

fighter, and enhancing strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The newly created U.S.-Israeli economic committee is slated to convene in the coming days to consider additional long-term proposals designed to strengthen the Israeli economy. Israel is seeking new U.S. government financing through the Export-Import bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to promote private U.S. investments in Israel.

The prime minister is scheduled to spend most of today in New York meeting with American bankers and businessmen in what Israeli officials are calling a "full court press" designed to generate more private commercial support for Israel.

In that regard, Israeli officials were encouraged by Reagan's statement at the White House that the U.S. will help Israel meet any future balance of payments problems - a signal to Wall Street that Israel remains a good commercial risk for more loans.

Peres yesterday scrapped a proposal to return to Washington today to sign a declaration at the White House with Reagan in support of the U.S.-Israeli free-trade area. Congress on Tuesday completed legisla-

tion authorizing the free-trade area but not in time for such a signing ceremony to take place during the Reagan-Peres meeting.

At that time, Reagan announced that the U.S. and Israeli negotiators had been instructed to complete their agreement within 30 days.

White House officials were still anxious for a formal Reagan-Peres signing ceremony and raised the possibility of today. Israeli officials were initially inclined to go along with the plan, but yesterday they rejected it for two reasons: Firstly, the second day of Succot is observed by Jews in the Diaspora as a holiday. It might look unseemly for an Israeli prime minister to fly to Washington at that time even though Israelis only celebrate the first day of Succot.

And secondly, Peres has already received some criticism for appearing to endorse Reagan's bid for reelection against Democratic challenger Walter Mondale. Peres emerged from the White House meeting with warm praise for Reagan. He later also praised Mondale, with whom he met in New York on Wednesday.

There was some concern among Israeli diplomats and others that yet another "photo opportunity" with the president might needlessly upset Israel's many Democratic friends in the U.S.

HOW DOES it feel to represent a country that is on "the cutting edge of modern technology," a rival of Japan in electronic ingenuity, and yet so bankrupt that loans are counted in odd millions of dollars and so inflation-ridden that its own currency is an embarrassment?

No doubt Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir know the full answer. It must surely be a very strange feeling. Israel is at one and the same time, very near absolute and immediate economic chaos and full of potential as a world-beater in industries coming to the fore in the second half of the 1980s.

This extraordinary contradiction between what we are and what we could - and should - be, is the common denominator which underlies all the individual, isolated events in both the macro-economy and micro-economy. It is, at the root, what the argument in the government is all about. David Levy is not merely another power-hungry politician; he is the voice of a very large section of the work force, the mouthpiece of a self-contained socio-economic attitude. Similarly, the troubles of Ata, the strikes at Vulcan, the threatened collapse of the textile and other industries, the whole question of subsidies, the capital market - everything comes back to one overriding issue: Is Israel going to slip back into the ranks of the underdeveloped Third World, and try and make its way on that basis, or will it join the beckoning era of the "third industrial revolution," in which data and computer-based industries take countries to hitherto almost unimaginable standards and qualities of living.

If it were a simple matter of black-and-white, as it is sometimes painted, one would be justified in wondering what all the fuss is about. Who could be against a better life for everyone? Unfortunately, it is far more complicated.

All over the developed world the trend is to replace unskilled manual and white-collar workers with automated and/or computerised facilities. One straw in the wind, on our local scene, was this week's announcement from Bank Discount that it is introducing a new, non-stop, no-people, all-machine customer-service facility in some of its branches. If it works - and it will - then it will be expanded. Results:

LET US CONSIDER some of the implications of the social and economic revolution that underlies the "Economy of the Nineties," beginning to emerge in countries, not all of them in the West. The first major area is education.

In order to participate, in order to attract and develop the industries that form the cutting-edge of the revolution, a country needs a workforce that is numerate, literate, and computer-literate. This education has to start at the early grades of junior school, so that by high school the student is equipped to begin building foundations for the specialization he will pursue at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Even more important, the many who do not go on to higher education, must be readied in junior and high school for vocational study or occupational training that will make them skilled workers in a world where unskilled workers are a costly luxury.

More efficiency, better service. Less costs, fewer jobs. That is just one example of the shape of things to come. Those with the requisite educational background will get the jobs that are, for the most part easier, more interesting and more satisfying than those of the past.

But what will happen to the labour market? Clearly, it will be changed beyond all recognition. The disparate interests of the skilled and unskilled groups of workers will pull them farther and farther apart. Umbrella organisations of trade unions will be ripped asunder by the competing forces within them.

But the trade unions will have more to contend with. As the concept of the electronic cottage takes hold - as more and more jobs can be done by the worker from his home or workshop, using his private computer terminal to link him with his place of work, the common interest of fellow workers in a shared workplace will disintegrate.

Every person will have a more specific role to play, either by himself or as part of a small team. Wage negotiations at the industry and even the plant level will become meaningless. Personal contracts will dominate. The labour market for the higher-level jobs will be a personalized one, based on individual talents and qualifications.

It isn't just a pipe-dream. A fleet-

LIVE AND LET DIE

By PINHAS LANDAU

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It isn't just a pipe-dream. A fleet-

ing glimpse at the structure of the local futuristic industries stars - Scitex, Elscint et al. - shows that the wage-slip of most of the upper echelon is vastly different from the Israeli norm. There is only one entry on the plus side - salary. No car allowance, telephone, professional literature, vacations, clothing and the rest of the clutter found on most pay sheets. This is the shape of things to come.

In the future, recipients of this kind of pay-slip will tend more and more to demand the parallel "cleaning-up" of the deduction side. They'll seek to pay just income-tax and national insurance, and not the host of bits and pieces that our idiot tax-system has spawned. People who are paid according to their efforts and results will demand the right to spend their money as they see fit, not as others dictate.

THE WEALTH produced by this kind of economy will be sufficient to keep even quite a large section of the work force, left out by reason of education or other circumstance, at a more than tolerable standard of living. But what will they do? Herein lies the great challenge of social policy. Bleating about minimum wages and propping up the mortally ill industries of yesterday will not provide answers. Make-work jobs cannot be anything more than make-believe solutions, valid only in the very short run.

There is, of course, much more to be explored in this vein. My colleague, David Krivine, has already examined, in these pages, some of the impact of the new technologies in the military sphere. Armies may well become much smaller. Weapons will be far more accurate, precise and deadly; above all they will be far more costly. The result could be that the concept of the citizen's army, the levee-en-masse that emerged from the French Revolution, will go the way of the dinosaur. The small, professional army of specialists and

technicians will re-emerge, after a gap of some hundreds of years.

All this, and much more, is not science-fiction. It is here and now. The question is: are we going to join that trend, or are we to continue being pulled backwards and thus downwards? This wide-ranging issue, which will determine the future of the country, has nothing to do with the standard Israeli squabbles. We could keep or not keep Judea and Samaria, oppress or not oppress the Arabs, be religious or irreligious. Nor has it got anything to do with democracy. We could easily end up like South Korea or Taiwan from a political as well as an economic point of view.

Nevertheless, it is the issue, because it affects every aspect of every person's life. Above all, it is the issue because, depending on whether the forces of future opportunity overcome the opposing array of blinkered populism, is the question of whether the battered economy, now on its last legs, can attract or retain the human and financial capital necessary to pull it round.

In this context, it should be clear that the marginal millions that Peres may or may not extract from Reagan will not resolve or determine anything final. What is far more indicative of where we are going is the rash of industrial disputes round Haifa. If Ata will be saved - again - with taxpayer's money, and if Urdan's attempt to salvage some of the mess that Vulcan became under Koor, is foiled by the Vulcan workers' Luddism, then the outlook is black, blacker than ever.

If David Levy and Yisrael Kessar, those latter-day Robin Hoods, maintain their success in bleeding productive industry to death so that their "weak classes" can continue to buy three loaves of bread for the price of one afternoon paper, then it's goodbye to the Third Industrial Revolution and, indeed, to the Third Commonwealth as we know it.

READERS' LETTERS

THE RITUAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF JUDAISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - You are to be commended for bringing to our attention, the Rosh Hashana Magazine, of September 26, two such stimulating, thought-provoking articles as "Conceptual convolutions" by Michael Shashar and "Different strokes" in which Yosef Goell reports on a conference held at Kibbutz Hatzor on the proposed "Movement for Humanistic Secular Judaism." They share a common thesis, developed from diametrically opposite points of view. Both reflect the effort on the part of so many to drive a permanent, immovable wedge between the ritual and ethical aspects of Judaism.

Michael Shashar so narrows the concept of "a treasured people" as to reduce to irrelevancy the entire ethical dimension of Judaism. He writes: "It seems that we need to lay down an important fundamental rule: human values, be they in the social-cultural realm or any other, are not the exclusive possession of any people, but are shared by various groups - especially by particular individuals - in many nations and there is no organic connection between those values and the socio-political form of a nation" (emphasis mine). Yosef Goell, on the other hand, quotes Professor Bauer as saying: "Those who so believe (in a divine being) can undoubtedly be humanists too, but it should be clear that this organization is not for them."

It seems to me it would be more constructive for all parties concerned to devote their thought and creative energy to exploring how to maintain the unity of Judaism rather than how to separate and divide ourselves. Were we to undertake this exploration seriously, we might yet become, if not a "light unto the nations" (which incidentally, despite Shashar, is a prophetic idea, of Isaiah 42:6), at least a light unto ourselves.

EPHRAIM I. BENNETT
Netanya.

MASADA BAR MITZVA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Six hundred people have just returned from Israel from one of the greatest experiences in Jewish life - a bar and bat mitzva on Masada. There were 96 children who celebrated the *simha*, and four of them served as proxies for four Russian refusenik children who could not make the journey. The great success of this special tour was due in large part to the supreme efforts of the Ministry of Tourism, El Al Israeli Airlines, Trans Global Tours, the

tour operator, the hotels in which they stayed, and to the marvellous Israeli guides. We want to shout from the rooftops to tell everyone what a positive experience this was, and to praise Israel for showing the world how high its tourism standards are, in spite of the political and economic problems which currently prevail. The warmth of the people, both on a professional and personal level, is still Israel's greatest asset.

CEIL SHAR
MARILYN ZIEMKE
Livingston, New Jersey.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - For a number of years, an organization called Elah has been active in the field of psychotherapeutic work with Dutch Holocaust survivors and their families. Several therapists with experience in this specific work are now extending their skills to a broader public.

Groups of Holocaust survivors and/or children of Holocaust survivors of different countries of origin are being formed and will start to meet in the fall, after the holidays. The meetings will be held on a weekly basis in Jerusalem, and in the Sharon area or Tel Aviv.

The purpose of the meetings is to create a situation in which both generations, the survivors and the second generation (not necessarily of the same family) will be able to explore these facets of their lives which prevent them from having a satisfying relationship either with each other and/or with third parties - and to get help in finding more satisfying modes of communication. For further information, your

ELISHEVA VANDERHAL
LENI FORTUS
Tel Aviv.

AGUDA STAND

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - In a recent article entitled "The Politics of conversion," Aryeh Rubinstein cites a monograph by Dr. Moshe Samet that claims, among other things, that influential forces within the Israeli Aguda downplayed the "Who is a convert" issue as a result of "pressure... exerted by the Aguda in the U.S., which argued that passage of the amendment would jeopardize the financial support being given - strangely enough - to *haredi* circles in the U.S. by members of the Conservative and Reform movements."

The contention is totally at variance with the reality. Agudath Israel of America is known, to anyone familiar with the American Jewish scene, for its outspoken public support of the *Giyur K'Halacha* amendment in the face of Conservative and Reform opposition. It has consistently decried, in the public forum, attempts by certain secular Jewish organizations and Conservative and Reform groups to influence the outcome of the debate in Israel through their veiled threats of withholding contributions to UJA and other pro-Israel funds.

Moreover, while Agudath Israel here has worked together with secular Jewish organizations on occasions where the safety of Jews is involved, it stands out in its consistent position against Orthodox participation in such religious umbrella groups as the Synagogue Council of America, out of the view that such membership impugns legitimacy to the ideological premises of Conservative and Reform. Agudath Israel of America has taken these stands openly and unabashedly in spite of any practical implications that may result from others' attempts to portray it as attacking Conservative and Reform Jews, as opposed to philosophies, policies, and rabbinic pretence.

YITZCHOK BRANDRISS,
Director of Public Affairs,
Agudath Israel of America
New York.

PENFRIENDS

CHARLES DALGART of P.O.B. 6874, San Jose, California 95150, is a native of Denmark who would like to have Israeli penfriends.

FRIEDA LAWRENCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - I read with some dismay the review by S.T. Meravi of the reprint of Frieda Lawrence's book "Not I but the wind..." (September 26).

I have read the book, but I suppose that many of your readers have not. Mr. Meravi is entitled to doubt that Lawrence was a "genius" - his inverted commas not mine - and to take a dim view of Frieda von Richthofen's conduct of life. However, the fact remains that she had the

courage to leave her three little children, not to see them again for many years and the memoirs she wrote after D.H. Lawrence's death are a moving document which nobody but your reviewer has called "bombastic and mad."

Mrs. Drabble in her introduction rightly says that this is a remarkable piece of writing in its own right.

DR. R. GOTTSCHALK
Haifa.

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